P.O. Box 3, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

FREE

Jamaica Plain Arts News

Volume 11, Number 8 April 14 - May 12

"Window III," Don Keren, silver print , 1995, 20x24", in the Collective Vision II show at the Piano Craft Guild, 791 Tremont Street in Boston, through April 30.

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Gala event marks rebirth of Firehouse Arts Center

(Left) Jim Adams at the 7th Firehouse Arts Center booksale. The event raised over $1,000 for Arts Center programs.

(Far left) Barbara Neely, author, Colette Bresilla, fabric artist and James Edward Jackon III at the opening of the Fiber Arts Exhibit and booksale.

Scores of gallery-goers convened on the Firehouse Arts Center on Friday, April 7 for the opening of the Textile Arts Exhibit. The gallery walls are hung with examples of a range of fabric art techniques and styles including quilting, weaving, painting and stitching, incorporating design and imagery in beautiful and provoking pieces.

The evening also featured the kick-off of the seventh annual Book Sale, organized by Jim Adams, with assistance by Karin Barderson. The sale, which ran on Saturday and Sunday as well, raised over $1,000 for the Arts Center. Contributions from Candlewick Press, the Harvard Common Press, Beacon Press, Museum of Fine Arts, Addison-Wesley Publishing Company and numerous generous individuals, gave the sale its high quality of selections.

At one point on Friday evening the attendees were asked to adjourn to the Bruegger's side of the space for a very special reading by Barbara Neely, who read from both of her books in the "Blanche" series, "Blanche on the Lam," and "Blanche Among the Talented Tenth," followed by a book signing.

While the Arts Center has never ceased programming, it has, in an effort to control costs and to reorganize for increased effectiveness, reduced the number of programs. The vital and interesting series of events this past weekend bodes well for the future of the center.

Volunteers raise the Spontaneous Celebrations banner at the new Danforth Street home. See page 4

This issue variety, next month computers!

Helen C. Hummel

In the issue of the *Jamaica Plain Arts News* you will be able to explore new aspects of your community, through the arts. You won't want to miss the Wake Up the Earth Festival, as always on the first Saturday in May. Find out some of the work that goes into this yearly festival and the other activities planned and implemented by the group Spontaneous Celebrations, that have recently acquired a space to house their activities.

Governor Weld declared April 26 "Dance Therapy Day" and in honor of this august occasion, we explore the work of one dance/movement therapist, Shira Karman. Learn how dance, a most universal form of the arts, can be used to treat a variety of ills, and in a direct, effective way.

Generally there are very few visual artists that think to include photographs of their work for publication. I encourage them to do so, as a picture draws attention to the written information about an exhibit, and is a chance to get some visibility. Well, this issue everyone listened and the result is a page called "Gallery" with examples of some of the fine photographs and paintings in area exhibits and by area artists.

Learn about a new, original play, Prozac's Sister, opening soon, written by Jamaica Plain playwright Michelle Gabow. And visit the exhibit of New York artists hosted by AAMARP, two events not to be missed.

NEXT ISSUE FOCUS ON COMPUTERS IN ART

Next issue proves to be an exciting one. In conjunction with the Firehouse Arts Center and the Computer Museum of Boston, the *Jamaica Plain Arts News* will be focused on computers in art, to tie in with an concurrent exhibit at the center.

Brian Wallace of the Computer Museum has contracted with five artists who "use computer technology to sift through the massive stream of imagery that comprises our visual culture." Wallace goes on to write, "Examining the iconography of a particular activity, the artists utilize the manipulative power of computer technology to creative alterative versions of established cultural narratives." The artists include D.K. Hull of Boston, Joyce Neimanas of Chicago, Leah Siegel of Santa Fe, and Michael Branson Smith of Boston.

Anyone in the readership who has ideas for stories or who has had personal experiences relating to the topic of computers and the arts, from any angle, please call me at 323-5261.

GOODBYE TO CALLAHANS

We have lost another friend to this community in the closing of Callahan's Mens Store last month. Paul Callahan and his store were consistent advertisers in this paper and their support of the work of the paper and of the arts community is greatly appreciated. I will miss very much my monthly visits with Mr. Callahan and wish him the very best.

NEED YOUR HELP

It has only taken me eleven years to realize that many of the distribution points for this paper toss it out about a week after it appears because they look at the publication date. The paper is a monthly, however, with listings and information designed to cover the entire month. Starting with this issue the date on the masthead covers the entire month. Please help the paper stay out for the month by asking for it, or, if you are a store, keeping it on the shelf. Thanks!

It has been awhile since I've reminded you that while the paper is distributed for free, it isn't free to publish. If you enjoy the paper, please consider a small contribution. Advertising and contributions are the sole support for the paper. It is *not* affiliated with the arts center or with any other organization. Please send any contributions to P.O. Box 3, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. For advertising information please call 323-5261.

Helen

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UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS AND DEADLINES
May 12 *Deadline* May 4
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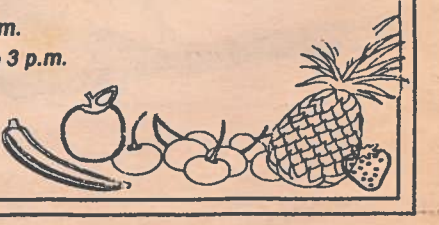

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